

HPV Facts

HPV (human papillomavirus) is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States. Over 100 different types of HPV have been identified.

Possible Signs and Symptoms

- *Almost all types of HPV do not produce symptoms.*
- If symptoms are present, they may appear within weeks or months after infection

Some strands of HPV cause genital warts. Signs of genital warts may be:

- Soft, pink or flesh-colored bumps or swellings on or near the genitals or anus or upper thigh area
- Cauliflower like growths on or near genitals or anus or upper thigh area

Transmission

- Oral, anal, or vaginal sex
- Infected mother to newborn during vaginal birth

Prevention

- Abstain from oral, anal, and vaginal sex
- Consistent, correct use of latex or polyurethane condoms or barriers during oral, anal, or vaginal sex
- Regular, routine pelvic examinations that include a pap smear test (women)
- Regular, routine health care examinations, including STD tests (men and women)
- If a partner is infected, avoid sexual contact if warts are present and use latex or polyurethane condoms or barriers at other times

Treatment

- Examination and tests by a health care provider to diagnose and determine best course of treatment
- There is no cure for HPV, however warts may be removed
- Medications may be warranted in the case of pre-cancerous changes that occur as a result of infection
- Vaccines are currently in production to prevent HPV

Complications/Effects if Left Untreated

- Abnormal pap smear tests
- Increased risk for cervical cancer and/or penile cancer
- Increased risk for HIV infection

If left untreated during pregnancy:

- Can be passed to infant during delivery, may cause warts in throat or voice box of baby

If You Have HPV...

- Refrain from sexual contact (oral, anal, or vaginal sex) if warts are present and use latex or polyurethane condoms or barriers at other times
- Learn about HPV and seek support from local groups or web sites
- Seek medical attention, including STD tests
- Take all medications prescribed and as directed
- Make sure all recent sex partners are notified if you have HPV and talk to new ones about it
- Annual STD screenings, including a pap smear test, if you are, or have ever been, sexually active
- If you are pregnant, get tested for STDs

For more information about STDs or about testing and treatment in New Jersey, please call the HIV/STD hotline or visit our web site:

1-800-624-2377

<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/stdhome.htm>

